

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0311

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TAGS: PINT, PINR, CH
SUBJECT: NCNA REPORT SUGGESTS LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND
RANKING

REF: HONG KONG 10447

1. VICE CHAIRMAN WANG TUNG-HSING'S CONTINUED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTY ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS MAY BE INDICATED IN A JANUARY 5 NCNA REPORT OF A MEMORIAL SERVICE WHICH IN EFFECT REHABILITATED A CADRE WHO DIED IN 1968. WANG WAS LISTED FIRST AMONG THOSE WHO SENT WREATHS TO A SERVICE (HELD AT PAPAOSHAN CEMETERY JANUARY 5) FOR YEN PAO-HANG, WHO BEFORE HE DROPPED OUT OF PUBLIC NOTICE IN 1965 HAD SERVED AS STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE CPPCC, THE UNITED FRONT COMMITTEE, AND EARLIER AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. YEN PRESUMABLY WAS IN POLITICAL TROUBLE AT THE TIME HE DIED BECAUSE HIS DEATH PASSED WITHOUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL NOW. SINCE THE FALL OF THE GANG OF FOUR MEMORIAL SERVICES HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN USED AS A WAY TO REHABILITATE POSTHUMOUSLY CADRES WHO WERE PERSECUTED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

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2. THE FUNERAL WAS PRESIDED OVER BY CPPCC VICE CHAIRMAN SUNG JEN-CHIUNG AND ADDRESSED BY ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR HU YAO-PANG, BOTH CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF TENG HSIAO-PING APPOINTED TO THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS DURING THE PAST MONTH. HU'S PROMINENT ROLE AT THE SERVICE WAS NATURAL IN THAT THE REHABILITATION OF A PARTY CADRE IS AN ORGANIZATION

DEPARTMENT FUNCTION. ALTHOUGH WANG TUNG-HSING MAY HAVE REGISTERED HIS NOMINAL AUTHORITY OVER ORGANIZATION MATTERS BY SENDING A WREATH, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT TENG ACQUIRED THE MAJOR INFLUENCE IN THIS SPHERE WHEN HIS OLD ASSOCIATE, HU, REPLACED KUO YU-FENG, A CULTURAL REVOLUTION HOLDOVER WHOSE BACKGROUND CLOSELY RESEMBLES THAT OF WANG.

3. THE NCNA ARTICLE'S LIST OF WREATH SENDERS ALSO INDICATED A POSSIBLE NEW RANK ORDER FOR TWO POLITBURO MEMBERS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, KENG PIAO WAS LISTED AHEAD OF ULANFU. IN THE STROKE ORDER LISTING WHICH HAS BEEN USED SINCE THE 11TH CONGRESS, ULANFU RANKED SEVERAL STEPS HIGHER THAN KENG PIAO. THE JANUARY 5 ARTICLE'S REVERSAL OF THE TWO MEN'S RANKS (ALSO MADE IN HONG KONG PRESS COVERAGE OF THE FUNERAL) IS CONSISTENT WITH TO KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN'S COMMENT TO US ON AUGUST 30 THAT HE HAD SEEN A LIST WHICH RANKED KENG PIAO IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE FOUR PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN. SHOESMITH

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